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17 CHARGED FEDERALLY IN MAJOR SYRACUSE HEROIN TRAFFICKING RING

Local arrests part of the national "Project Deliverance" drug investigation

Richard S. Hartunian, United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York, and Special Agent-in-Charge John P. Gilbride, Drug Enforcement Administration, New York Field Division announced the arrest of 17 individuals on federal drug trafficking charges in connection with a vast heroin distribution network operating between Newark, New Jersey and Syracuse, New York.

Set forth below is a listing of those arrested, their age, and their city of residence:

- 1. MARK CAESAR**, age 30, Newark, New Jersey;
- 2. DWAYNE BODY**, age 24, Newark, New Jersey;
- 3. KEYFA SAMPSON**, age 28, Syracuse, New York;
- 4. LONNIE SPRUIEL**, age 27, Syracuse, New York;
- 5. DARNELL WASHINGTON**, age 37, Syracuse, New York;
- 6. DERRICK CAMPBELL**, age 35, Syracuse, New York;
- 7. DARLEEN SAMPSON**, age 47, Syracuse, New York;
- 8. ALPHONSO RAY**, age 31, Syracuse, New York;
- 9. SHAQUAIL HARRIS**, age 18, Syracuse, New York;
- 10. FABRICE LOWE**, age 29, Syracuse, New York;
- 11. GENEVA BROWN**, age 52, Syracuse, New York;
- 12. SALAAM BROWN**, age 27, Syracuse, New York;
- 13. DAVID LOPEZ**, age 35, New York, New York;
- 14. TITO CUADRA**, age 42, Syracuse, New York;
- 15. WARREN LEWTER**, age 28, Syracuse, New York;
- 16. FATEEN SMITH**, age 30, Syracuse, New York; and

17. STARFAYSIA PERRY, age 21, Syracuse, New York.

These 17 defendants have been charged in U.S. District Court in Syracuse with multiple conspiracy and substantive heroin trafficking charges, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841 and 846. **GENEVA BROWN** has also been charged with maintaining a premises at 115 John Street in Syracuse for drug trafficking purposes, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 856. If convicted on the most serious charges against them, each defendant faces a mandatory minimum five year term of imprisonment up to a maximum of 40 years imprisonment, up to a \$2 million fine, and at least four years of supervised release following any period of incarceration.¹

U.S. Attorney Richard S. Hartunian said “ ‘Project Deliverance’ is an excellent example of how the U.S. Department of Justice is working closely and effectively with local law enforcement agencies to identify, arrest and prosecute those who are distributing heroin and other illegal drugs in our community. Our commitment to this effort remains as one of our highest priorities. We will continue to lend our support to federal and local drug task forces and aggressively prosecute all those who attempt to bring illegal narcotics into the Northern District of New York”.

“This international law enforcement operation led DEA and our police partners around the world. ‘Project Deliverance’ hit home here in the Syracuse, NY area where the Central New York Drug Task Force identified and arrested seventeen individuals who had a role in supplying the communities in New York with heroin. Law enforcement collaborated in order to deliver the message to drug trafficking organizations worldwide that we will not tolerate their actions and will track them down to deliver the consequences of their illegal heroin distribution crimes in

¹ The charges announced today are mere allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

order to put them in prison and off our streets,” stated Special Agent-in-Charge John P. Gilbride, Drug Enforcement Administration, New York Field Division.

These prosecutions are part of a 22-month national multi-agency law enforcement investigation known as “Project Deliverance,” which targeted the transportation infrastructure of Mexican drug trafficking organizations operating in the United States. The Syracuse part of this far-reaching investigation revealed a major heroin trafficking pipeline from Newark, New Jersey to Syracuse that included multiple New Jersey natives who came to Syracuse and "set-up shop" dealing substantial quantities of heroin here.

To date, the Syracuse investigation has netted the seizure of (1) more than 57,000 individual packets of heroin, with a net weight of at least 2 kilograms, and a street value of at least \$700,000; (2) more than \$158,000 in U.S. Currency; (3) 6 handguns; and (4) four vehicles.

The Syracuse arrests resulted from an investigation undertaken by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Syracuse Police Department, the Onondaga County Sheriff’s Department, and the New York State National Guard, with assistance from the U.S. Marshals Service, the Department of Justice’s Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the U.S. Probation Office, the Onondaga County District Attorney’s Office and the New York State Police.

Further inquiries can be directed to Assistant U. S. Attorney John M. Katko, Syracuse, New York at (315) 448-0916.